

USSN 09/493,545

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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
No. 08702-0068-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Zhang et al.

Application No.: 09/493,545

Filed: February 28, 2000

**For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS
FOR HEALING AND REPAIR OF
ARTICULAR CARTILAGE**

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

REPLY ACCOMPANYING RCE

This is in response to the Advisory Action mailed January 1, 2002. An RCE is filed herewith as well as an extension resetting the due date for filing an Appeal brief from December 30 to May 30, 2002.

REMARKS

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment. The Amendment addresses the Examiner's contention set forth in the Advisory Action that the previous response did not address the statement made by the Examiner that "the claims contain the word 'comprising' which is open term and thus any art that is identified can have BMP plus any other components and still read on the claim if it is being used for cartilage repair." By the present Reply, Applicants have fully addressed the Examiner's statement.

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